Men on a Mission
Valuing Youth Work in Our Communities
William Marsiglio

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"Marsiglio’s masterful and panoramic portrait makes us aware how so many men today take a real risk to 'be there' for others' children, and shows us how they—and we—profoundly benefit from their generative journey."—Joseph H. Pleck, University of Illinois

Men on a Mission provides the first comprehensive study of men who work and volunteer with kids in a variety of public settings. This engaging book brings to life diverse histories and experiences of men who have worked as coaches, teachers, youth ministers, probation officers, Big Brothers, Boys & Girls Club staff, and the like. Drawing on in-depth interviews with men between the ages of 19 to 65, ethnographic observations, and more than twenty years of research on fathers, William Marsiglio explores the many aspects of male mentorship of youth, underscoring its ties to fathering. Situating men’s youth work in historical perspective and discussing the status of youth today, this groundbreaking analysis offers a forward-looking vision for getting men more involved, and involved more productively, in helping kids thrive.

William Marsiglio is a professor of sociology at the University of Florida and author of Stepdads: Stories of Love, Hope, and Repair.

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